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LB 994

important that we set up mechanisms to encourage the teachers of this state to better themselves in their profession, to move upward, and to better their skills, and I think that is what the certification ladders that we have established in 994 is all about. The stipend mechanism, and Senator Hoagland mentioned this, if you do not want to fund it to the extend that the A bill is going to say, then the A bill is the place to say that. That is fine. We will discuss that when we get to the A bill, but I think it is important that we have a mechanism at least, the concept at least that we want, number one, the teachers to better themselves in their profession and move up the certification ladder, and I think the appropriate way to encourage that to happen is to have a stipend mechanism as an incentive, as an incentive to people to move up to recognize they are going to get paid a little more as they better themselves in their profession. I don't disagree, as I indicated, with the need for property tax relief and I don't disagree that dollars need to be put in the equalization and foundation formula. LB 341, I just got through filing an amendment a little bit ago to LB 341 to assist to do that.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Senator Newell has got one to file with that, too. I will repeat, I have got a bill, my priority bill, that is going to be discussed in a few weeks to discuss the issue of increases in state aid, increases directed to property tax relief. I might also add that I visited with the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee this morning and he tells me the Appropriations Committee as well is going to have a vehicle to do that. I would simply tell Senator Newell and others that there is going to be another pony. Let's put the saddle on that one and not put it on this little horse we have got going across here now. I think the important thing is to keep in mind the goal is to raise the abilities of our teachers that are out there in the systems of our state.

PRESIDENT: Senator Remmers, do you wish to speak on the Newell amendment? And the Chair would like to (gavel) ask for order in the Chamber. The conversational level has